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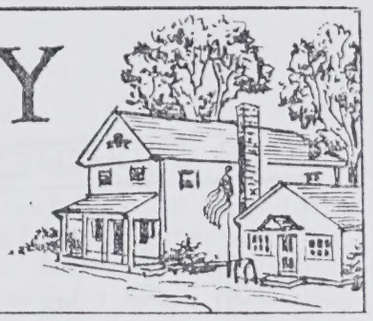
MONTEREY NEWS



February, 1978

OUR TOWN

Snow Money

Monterey Selectman Dick Tryon reports that the Town has run out of snow money for this winter. This year's snow removal account contained $24,000. A law passed last year in the General Court states that:

"Any city or town may incur liability and make expenditures in any fiscal year in excess of available appropriations for snow and ice removal, provided that such expenditures are approved ... by the selectmen and the finance or advisory committee....However, the appropriation for such purposes in said fiscal year must equal or exceed the appropriation for said purposes in the prior fiscal year. Expenditures made under authority of this section shall be certified to the board of assessors and included in the next annual tax rate."

Last year at a special town meeting the Selectmen asked for an extra $10,000 to finish out the winter. $2000 of that was turned back unused at the end of the season. This year the extra appropriation will be made according to the above law.

The snow removal account pays for hired equipment, sand, salt and salaries. Reasons given for the extra expense both last winter and this winter are rising cost of materials (total cost of sand and salt is up about $3500 from last year) and an increased demand for service (people are now living on roads which formerly were not plowed at all). Salaries for the road crew are up $.25 an hour from last year.

One example of an expensive storm was the storm during the week ending January 21. Deep snow and high winds combined to form impassable drifts which required heavier, more expensive equipment, more time and more effort. According to town Treasurer, Barbara Gauthier, the cost of snow removal during that storm was $4,371. Another kind of storm, one which is accompanied by sleet, drifts less but is much more ponderous to move, Monterey had two of these storms in one week (January 1 to 7) and these cost the town $4,445.86.

How to Help the Road Crew

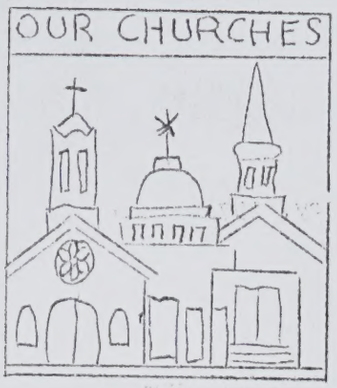
Ray Tryon, who with Harold Crine is responsible for coordinating snow removal in Monterey, has requested that motorists be aware of the impediment to this operation which is presented by cars parked or abandoned on town roads during snow storms. A twelve foot plow can't pass by a parked car on most Monterey roads. The road crew has been instructed to call the Police who in turn will tow the car away at the owner's expense. Ray has a better idea. A car owner who finds himself stranded on an unplowed road should call Ray at 528-2583 or Harold Crine at 528-1784 or the Town Shed at 528-1734. He will be advised as to when a snow plow will be expected and he will be told to be near his car at that time. The plow driver will assist him in removing his car and will then be able to clear the road. In addition to this, motorists are generally advised, for obvious reasons, to stay off of public roads during winter storms.

Assessors' Maps

Monterey Assessors are updating all property maps of the Town. These maps show property divisions and acreage of public and private lands in Monterey. The first complete mapping of the town was done in 1971 by two professional firms, one of which drew up maps on the basis of aerial photographs and deeds and the other of which refined and codified that information.

In order to comply with the requirement made by the 1975 court decision that "a full and fair cash value based on maps" be determined for property in each town in Massachusetts, the assessors periodically adjust their valuation of town properties and report to the state both their determinations and the present market value of lands sold during the year. In their most recent revaluation of land, our assessors came within one per cent of the amount the state had established as the value of the town. Last year, however, Monterey taxes represented only 50% of actual "market value" of lands sold. Another adjustment in valuation will be required, this time across the board, probably in 1979.

The revised maps as well as the 1971 aerial photographs are available at the Assessors Office to any private citizen or political body in the town.



CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immaculate Conception Church, Mill River -- Mass at 10 a each Sunday.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Notes

Morning worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. . . .
Kindergarten Class Sundays at 10:30 a.m. . . .
Grades 1-4 Wednesdays at 3:15 p.m. . . . .

Lenten Bible Study

During Lent we are studying the lectionary for this season. All who would like to share in the group are invited to a Tuesday evening study group. From the findings, observations and questions of this group the minister then brings the next Sunday's worship and sermon into focus around these themes. Given below are the subjects and the scriptures for the remaining Sundays of Lent:

February 19 "To What Does God Call Us"
Genesis 12:1-7, IITimothy 1:14-18, Matthew 17:1-9

February 26 "Rejoicing in Hope"
Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-42

March 5 "Light and Visibility"
II Samuel 5:1-5, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-11

March 12 "Raised to Newness of Life"
Ezekiel 37:11-14, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-4, 34-44

March 19 "Taking the Form of a Servant"
Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 21:1-11

Worship in Social Room

During the most severe of the winter weather the worship is being held in the social room. Many have commented on the closeness and intimacy that this setting provides and have expressed the hope that we will do this each winter.

Storm Relief Offering

The losses of some families by the recent snow storm in the coastal area is so great that the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church is calling for a special offering to help relieve some of the most critical need. Such an offering is to be received in the Monterey Church on February 19. The need for generous help is great.

THOUGHTS ON A WINTER MORNING

I yearn for the dawn of Springtime
When the apple buds unfold
And the first song of the bluebird
Brings a happiness untold;
When the robin sings at daybreak,
And the sun casts its warm rays;
My heart is filled with longing
For the joyous springtime days.

Eleanor Kimberley

CELEBRATING THE THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

We humans are a restless lot. We have many complaints about the way things are. As a result we have brought about many changes. As a boy I grew up on an Iowa farm. Most of the roads were dirt roads. I can't begin to tell of the frustrations we suffered in rainy weather when the roads turned to sticky mud. but now this is all changed. There are few dirt roads left in the area of my boyhood home. Too many people suffered the frustration of getting stuck in the mud. Here was something that could be changed. Where sufficient desire for getting out of the mud was present the change was not long in coming. This is the history of how many changes have come In large part many of these changes are for the good.

Yet we discover there are many things we cannot change. The ceaseless rhythm of day and night is something I cannot change. The relentless movement of the seasons is another thing I find I have no power to make do my bidding. Now this doesn't mean that automatically I accept these things simply because I cannot change them. My wife thinks I object to night because I carry so much of the day's work over into it. Yes, I suppose it is true, if I could I would make night a lot shorter, especially in the wintertime. Yet when I am in my right mind I celebrate that there are many things I can't change. Though on any particular day I would lengthen the daylight and shorten the night, I am learning to celebrate the fact that I can not change this either by my whim or by steady concerted effort. More and more I discover that the things I cannot change give an order, structure and regularity to my life that I might not have sense enough to bring about otherwise.

Just recently I found myself celebrating the fact that I can't turn off a storm by wishing it--or by any mammoth effort either. The storms of winter are often a burden and if I could have things my way I'm sure I'd turn them into nicely regulated events that gave us the right amount of snow--and, of course, at convenient times. But just a few days ago I found myself being glad that I couldn't change the storm. Ah, but I had a lot of changing to do myself because of the storm. Something of the fiber of my person is brought into play grappling with the storm. Yet if I could I would find an easy way through it. Indeed, if I had the power to do so, I expect I'd plan my life to be lived out in a perpetual bed of roses. And then where would I be?

My guess is that a lot of "iron in the soul" comes from dealing with the things we cannot change. I remember once I had the dream that some rich benefactor might take pity on me and hand me the money to get an education. Once I even selected the person whom I hoped would do this for me. Strange, he never got the same idea I did. That was something I couldn't change. Now I find myself wondering, suppose I had found the power to change that situation. There's no way I can know for sure, but somehow I have a notion that a part of myself that I had to put into devising a way to get my education, may have been an important ingredient in shaping the person I was to become.

The deeper I get into life the more I find myself celebrating the things we cannot change. Some of the most important movements in our own persons come from those immovable objects we encounter in life. We complain when we find them immovable, we may even become angry that we can't budge them. But strangely enough, those things that we can't change have a subtle way of bringing about changes in our own persons. Here in the Berkshires there are those persons who dreaded to see winter come and they hated the snow. It is possible for such a person to eat his heart out over every winter and over every new storm. Yet there are those who found that railing against the winter and the snow only deepened their misery. Then there are some recognizing their inability to change the winter, changed themselves. They took up skiing. To their amazement they experienced an inner change--and would you believe it--they now celebrate the very same kind of snowfall they were cursing a few years ago. That taking up skiing can change the inner attitude toward a snowstorm is something we can all understand. Now can we take this one step farther?

Sometimes the immovable object, "the thing that will not change" takes the form of another person. Sometimes that other person may be as important to your life as a husband or wife. And suppose the immovable position of the other is a source of great pain to you? What then? It is not easy to learn, but many a person has finally come to know that the most important changes in their own persons have come at the point of meeting something that will not change in another. For some people this has been the beginning of a whole new way of approaching life. The immovableness of another person has been the source of helping some people discover that there are inner resources within themselves of which they had never dreamed. When these inner movements are brought into play and people discover there is something that releases their own resourcefulness, they are often amazed at themselves.

This article is aimed at one thing. It is calling attention to the amazing qualities that exist within the spirit of an individual person. There is a resourcefulness that lies beyond much of our dreaming. I celebrate the things outside of ourselves we cannot change. Often this alone is able to teach us what it is within ourselves we are able to change.

Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ

Mid-winter activities are more varied than one might expect. One of the most urgent is chopping down dead trees and cutting them into suitable lengths for stoves and fire-places. Six of the cottages we used to think of as usable only in summer have been insulated. Staff members living in them--by choice, not necessity--keep wood stoves going as their only source of heat. Rockside, where the Dan Reuters live, has an oil burner but manages almost entirely with a wood stove. Fireplaces cheer the living rooms at the main house, East House, and McKee House. Two huge maples near the Hurty Cottage, where Lois Winchester makes her home, gradually gave up living and had to be taken down. People work there almost every day, using the two-man saw on the big trunks, hacking off the branches and splitting the logs. The great wood-pile back of the weaving studio is good to see.

As everywhere in the north-east this winter, there has been more than enough snow to shovel, roads and paths to sand, cars to dig out. Then the barn animals must be fed and cared for--the cows, steers, pigs, chickens, goats. The sheep seem to like cold weather, standing in the sun when they can and at other times huddling together for warmth under the densely planted pines on Topside hill.

For recreation, there are trips to the bowling alleys and to New Marlboro Academy for basket-ball, to concerts at Simon's Rock and other places, and once a week a very popular trip to the Friendly Ice-cream Store. Before the last heavy snows, there was ice-skating on the ponds. Ski trips are enjoyed by those with the needed skill; and there is always tobogganing and sledding. Afternoon and sometimes all-day hikes are taken by small groups, once or twice a week.

In the evenings there are programs at the main house or at one of the cottages. Sally Kelly's play group presented their second offering of the season at the Valentine Variety Show, February 11. This is always warmly received. Taffy pulls are fun and the result is excellent. During the daytime work program, there is a chance to join in making cookies for afternoon tea or something for evening refreshments. A number of people like to make bread, which enhances regular meals. Each of the larger houses has an occasional dinner for its own residents. There are ping-pong tournaments, too. One evening a week, classical music is played in the main house living room. There is also a short-story reading at McKee House or East House, and a philosophy group. Once a month there is a gala tea with a large cake in honor of those whose birthdays fall that month.

It cannot be long now before we tap the maple trees! Everyone looks forward eagerly to sugaring time.

Rose McKee

BOY SCOUTS

Cub Scouts — The Cub Scouts had a pack meeting February 3. t was a Pine Wood Derby for Pack 51. Ricky Dassett from New Marlborough placed First for fastest car and First for best looking. Norman Stalker also from New Marlborough placed Second for best looking and Second for fastest car. Ricky White from New Marlborough placed Third for fastest car. At the meeting Mr. Weber presented Webelos Artist badges to Robert Sulka, Danny Labrecque and Keith Amstead. Donald Walk and Norman Stalker received their Wolf badge.

There is going to be a fishing derby at Chester Lake. If anyone is interested in going please call Mrs. Edward Smith Jr.

There will be a Blue and Gold covered dish supper in the church basement March 31 at 6 p.m. Each family is asked to bring their own table settings.

Webelos — The Webelos are now studying for their forest badge with Donald Amstead.

GIRL SCOUTS

Juriors — The Juniors are working on cooking badges. They are also getting ready for Girl Scout Week. The Juniors will be coming around soon selling cookies.

Brownies — The Brownies have been active this month with ice skating and a sleigh ride. They have learned some yoga exercises to help them stay active while confined to indoors. Future plans include Valentine crafts and party.

MONTEREY YOUTH GROUP

The youth group had a bowling party and they plan to continue having special activities every month. The group is meeting every Sunday evening. They are working on a unit called Identity. After each meeting they have recreation.

SCHOOL REPORT

The latest School Report of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (1976-77) is available in the Town Offices, open every week-day except Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call Cynthia Weber there (528-1443) to arrange to pick up a copy of the Report.

N E E D S

Crawling through the tall
itchy grass.
She seems to be looking
for something not there.
Something which she wants--
but doesn't know where or what.
But she wants something badly;
she is trying not to show it.
You can see it in weary,
but courageous eyes.
She wants and needs something...

Pam Gauthier
Age 15

New Books at the Monterey Library

Bennett Cerf.	At Random
Howard Fast	The Immigrants
John Fowles	Daniel Martin
Victoria Holt	The Devil on Horseback
John B. Martin	Adlai Stevenson and the World
Joni Morrison	Song of Solomon
Irwin Shaw	Beggarman Thief
Irving Stone	The Greek Treasure
J. B. West	Upstairs at the White House
Phyllis A. Whitney . . .	The Stone Bull

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

This month we acknowledge with warm thanks the contributions of the following: Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Brallier, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brosseau, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carter, Kathryn Clark, Dora Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hebert, Mrs. Leon Howes, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Koivisto, Mr. and Mrs. Merton O'Prey, Mr. Marcee Pasche, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Race, Rev. and Mrs. George Razee, Mrs. Clinton Schneyer, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schweid, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thorn, Mr. and Mrs. Sol Zaret.

S T A F F

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